

# California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program

## Enrollment Form

Check one: MD ☐ NP ☐ PA ☐

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ State: CA

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please supply an email address as it is the primary  
communication method with sentinel providers.*

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to diagnostic testing for  
influenza? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please complete the enrollment  
form and return to:

CDHS Immunization Branch  
Attn: Melissa Dahlke  
850 Marina Bay Parkway  
Richmond, CA 94804  
Fax: (510) 620-3774

## California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program

*California clinicians are a  
critical component  
of the state and national  
surveillance network for influenza.*

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## Enroll now to volunteer for this influenza season!

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### Questions?

Please contact Melissa Dahlke

Phone: (510) 620-3494 or

Email: [flu@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:flu@dhs.ca.gov)

For more information visit our website:  
[www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flu-sentinel.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flu-sentinel.htm)

# California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program

Sponsored by:

The California Department of Health Services,  
Immunization Branch,  
Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory and  
the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



# We need your help to track influenza in California!

## The California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program is

a partnership between clinicians, local health departments (LHDs), the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct surveillance for *influenza-like illness (ILI)*. The program contributes valuable epidemiological and virologic information to state, national, and global influenza surveillance activities.

## Why is surveillance for influenza important?

- Seasonal influenza is a significant cause of illness and death in California each year.
- Pandemic influenza is an unpredictable but inevitable threat.
- Routine surveillance for influenza improves our ability to monitor the circulation of influenza virus strains in the community.
- Surveillance aids with the detection of new subtypes and emerging strains of influenza viruses, an important element of preparedness for pandemic influenza.
- The data collected by Sentinel Providers assist CDHS and CDC with developing influenza prevention and control strategies and with selecting the virus strains to be included as components of the flu vaccine.



## Who is eligible to be a Sentinel Provider?

Sentinel providers may be physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants from any specialty.



## What are the responsibilities of a Sentinel Provider?

### Data Collection and Reporting

- Keep a record of the number of patient visits for influenza-like illness (categorized by age group) and the total number of patient visits for any reason.
- Report this influenza-like illness data weekly by fax or the internet.

### Specimen Collection

- Collect nasal swabs or respiratory specimens from a subset of patients that meet the ILI case definition and submit them to the state laboratory for testing.
- All testing is performed at no cost to the provider. CDHS supplies the specimen collection materials and pays for shipping.



## What feedback and materials do Sentinel Providers receive?

- **Individual test results** for specimens submitted to the state laboratory.
- **Rapid Antigen Test Kits** (Influenza A and B) are offered to qualified providers to facilitate on-site diagnostic testing.
- **Weekly updates** of state and national influenza activity.
- **An annual summary** of the ILI surveillance data collected and the Sentinel Provider program activities.
- **Choice of a medical book or a subscription to the New England Journal of Medicine** for providers who consistently report ILI data and submit at least five respiratory specimens during the influenza season.

